



Plastics Industry Pipe Association
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26 September 2002

Mr Alex Olah
Principal Research Officer
Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Secretary: *[Signature]*
RECEIVED
26 SEP 2003
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES
AND FORESTRY

Dear Mr Olah

**Standing Committee on Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry –
Water Supplies for Australia’s Rural Industries and Communities**

In his presentation to the above Committee on Friday 15 August 2003 Mr Jolyon Burnett, Chief Executive Officer of the Irrigation Association of Australia, referred to a possible new product development regarding minimising evaporative and seepage losses from irrigation channels and also open water storages.

The Plastics Industry Pipe Association of Australia (PIPA) has been active in both capping and piping bores and in enclosing open irrigation channels for over ten years.

Attached for the Committee’s information is some information relating to the Wimmera Mallee Water (WMW) – Northern Mallee Pipeline Project. This \$50 million project was completed in November 2002. It is estimated that each year the project will save 50,000 megalitres of water otherwise lost to evaporation and seepage. This will have both very significant community benefits and enable the Wimmera and Glenelg Rivers to receive environmental flows. The project won the Australian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage and the Save Water Award 2001. The Northern Mallee Pipeline Project was an example of industry best practice and we commend the project for the Committee’s further consideration.

We note also that Mr Tony Windsor MP asked a specific question relating to “any research into cutting back on evaporation from open water storages that could be significant in the future”. Consultation with industry representatives has indicated that this type of technology has been trialled with varying degrees of success. PIPA will undertake further investigation into this particular matter both here and overseas and advise the Committee accordingly.

We trust this information is of some interest to the Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Yours faithfully

**DAVID SUMNER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**



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**Submission to Standing Committee on Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry –
Water Supplies for Australia's Rural Industries and Communities**

**OVERVIEW OF WIMMERA MALLEE WATER (WMW) – NORTHERN MALLEE
PIPELINE PROJECT, AN INNOVATIVE WATER SAVINGS PROJECT IN RURAL
AUSTRALIA INVOLVING THE PLASTIC PIPE INDUSTRY**

Key Points:

- **Cost \$50m over 10 years**
 - State & Federal Governments each \$19.1m
 - WMW \$2.3m
 - Landowners \$9.5m
- **Replaces channel supply with 2500 km of Plastic pipe covering 600,000 ha of the WM domestic and stock water supply area including 12 towns.**
- **Waters savings 48,600 ML/pa of which 34,700 is available for environmental flows in non-drought years, leaving 13,900 to enhance security of supply for domestic and stock uses.**
- **Given the design capacity of the pipeline is 5000 ML/pa. The previous channel system used 53,600 ML/pa to deliver 5000 ML/pa.**
- **Advantages to Landowners: (based on testimonials)**
 - water security in drought years, need for destocking eliminated
 - extra cropping land from filled channel areas
 - cleaner and better quality water
 - reduction of feral animals
 - greater farm diversification opportunities due to reliable water supply, eg. Pheasants/partridges, emu/ostrich, farmed rabbit, squab, venison, vegetables, flowers.
- **The General Manager of WMW was quoted as saying that the project would not have been feasible without the availability of PVC pipe.**